

New Amiga Software...Kinda

Hi Bill,

The other day I was in CompUSA and noticed a software package with the Amiga name on it. It was a set of games for the PocketPC. I couldn't resist buying it. Gave me a strange thrill to see ANYTHING with "Amiga" on it in a mainline store after so many years. Wow!

The games come on an SD card, and work fine with my Ipaq PocketPC. Presumably they are all ports of existing Amiga games. On initial powerup there is a seamless install, then you have 4 games to choose from. There is an arcade-style game called "Blobula." I was not very impressed with it at first blush because the control scheme via stylus is fairly awkward. The Ipaq has a bit of stutter dealing with sound and graphics in the game as well, even with a 400 MHz processor. The other 3 games are much more appealing to me. They are all word puzzles which I have always enjoyed.

There is a nice word search puzzle... seems a bit too easy in the beginning. There is also a "lexical IQ" game which gives you a definition and you have to enter the word — pretty challenging and a lot of fun. The best though is a crossword game called "Crossword Evolution." The puzzles are well constructed and the user interface makes typing the answers into the squares quite easy and quick. I'll be playing this one a LOT. Hopefully there are extra puzzles available somewhere.

Interesting note — when you start the games, there is an animation of the familiar Boing Ball, but it has chrome and red squares instead of red and white, and spins rather than bouncing around. But just the sight of it was enough to make me want to pound my chest and holler "KREEGAH!!" ha ha ha

See ya,
Mike Ellis
April 24, 2003

Yawn!

The excitement continues to grow in the Amiga World, yeah! right! Yawn! Actually there was one little piece of news I saw that I thought was very interesting. One of the first user groups to form officially in this country for the Morph/Pagasos system has formed in Snoqualme, Washington. Gee, that name sounds very familiar. Where have I heard that before? Oh! Yeah! That's right! That's where the headquarters for that other company is. Let's see. What's its name? Oh yeah, Amiga. Inc. It seems a bit odd that one of the initial Morph user groups would form in Amiga's home town. Kind of makes you wonder how many of the user group members are employees of Amiga, Inc.

Let's see, if the name of the group is the Snowqualme Morph User Group, then it must be "SMUG," right?

Actually, it seems each month I keep predicting that things are ready to burst and things will start to happen and each month it doesn't happen. I suppose that's not really true. The marketing of both the Amiga One and Pegasos motherboards and MorphOS began back before the first of the year. Part of the problem has been that both motherboards were being manufactured by MAI Logic and were modified versions of the PPC based Linux motherboard that MAI markets as the Teron PPC and that Terre Soft markets as the Boxer ATX. There turned out to be problems with one of the chip sets on the board and, as I understand it, has fostered a parting of the ways. Initially, the problem appeared on the Amiga One and it was thought to be taken care of until it resurfaced on the Pegasos boards. Further action is being taken to resolve the problem in the long run, but this was the catalyst that encouraged Pegasos to look elsewhere. Therefore a limited number of the Pegasos I boards will be sold until the new Pegasos II boards become available.

Pegasos II will be a redesigned board and will come from a new supplier, a circuit board manufacturer who will be making its first foray into providing full motherboards. They are also promising to provide a trade-up for anyone who purchases a Pegasos I to move to a Pegasos II.

I have heard a rumor that MAI may pull out of the business, and another that Eyetech has not been satisfied with the level of sales of the Amiga One and may scrap it, but I have not been able to confirm that on any of the web sites I frequent. Then again, one of our members has just received a prototype of new Mini ATX board from MAI that is apparently a reduced version of these systems. So, your guess is as good as mine as to what is really going on.

It is rather unfortunate that, at a time when these new products are being introduced and need sales to make them viable products to insure the solvency of their developers, these situations encourage most of us to adopt a wait and see attitude. Many of us will wait until the products are generally available so we

can see them, experiment with them, compare them with the alternatives and only when we have reasonable confidence in our decision, proceed to purchase. Unfortunately, with a market as small as the current Amiga Community, having the market fragmented is bad enough, but if major parts of that market also delay making purchases, it may well doom the new product lines before they are well underway.

*Ron Schwartz
President, AmiTech Dayton
AmiTech-Dayton Gazette, April 2003*

AmigaMCCC News

MCCC
P.O. Box 813
Bedford, Texas 76095

*Please Forward
Address Correction Requested*

<http://www.amigamccc.org>

May Calendar

*May 12 — Amiga By-The-Loop Chapter
7:30 pm — University Center, Pedernales Room
W. First St. & S. West St., Arlington*

*May 12 — MCCC Board of Director's Meeting
Approx. 10:00 pm — TGI Fridays
Cooper Street just south of I-20, Arlington*

*May 15 — Amiga North Dallas Chapter
7:30 pm — Junkins Building, SMU
Dyer and Airline Extension Rd., Dallas*

May 24 — Newsletter Deadline — 7:00 am

20th Anniversary

*The MCCC was founded in February of 1983. This is our 20th anniversary! To celebrate, we want to have a reunion get-together. We're trying to contact as many of our past members as we can in order to make this a special event. Mark Sunday, July 27 on your calendar. That's the day that we'll meet to renew old friendships. We have the Brookside Convention Center in Hurst booked for the afternoon on that date. More information will follow. In the meantime, if you are in contact with any past members, please let them know and let one of the officers know how we can contact them.
...Bill Raecke*